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Source: Boston Herald

Item:

Date: 9/5/91

Supporters rally round convicted murderer

By BEVERLY FORD

Albino Pereira says he's no sugar daddy — just an ardent supporter of convicted killer Pamela Smart.

That's why, says Pereira, he's sent Smart gifts from the Victoria's Secret lingerie catalog, accepted her collect phone calls and written her several uplifting letters.

"Pam's come to mean a great deal to me," Pereira said of Smart, who is serving a life term for coaxing her teen-age lover and his two friends into murdering her 24-year-old husband, Gregory. "My heart bleeds for Pam. And I'm not afraid to come out and say I support her."

Neither are scores of other people, many of whom will meet for the first time at a Saturday cookout in Dracut organized by The Friends of Pamela Smart.

Among the more than 100 supporters expected to attend will be New Hampshire singer-songwriter Bob Dorley, who penned "Pamela's Song," a ballad bemoaning Smart's



SMART BACKER: Albino Pereira poses recently after changing his auto registration to boost the cause of convicted murderer Pam Smart.

AP photo

trial as unfair.

"To me, the right to a fair trial is as sacred as the Bible," said Dorley, who has sold about 100 copies of the tape-recorded song for \$10 each, a portion of which goes to Smart's defense fund.

Like other Smart supporters, Dorley believes Smart played no role in her husband's May 1, 1990, slaying.

"After meeting her family and her friends, it's awfully hard for me to believe she's

guilty," said the 47-year-old Dorley, who will sing his ballad at Saturday's picnic.

Tim Marcoux, another Smart supporter, also will be on hand to distribute "Pam is Innocent" bumper stickers to fellow picnic-goers.

"I'm not going to give up on this kid," said the 40-year-old Marcoux, who has stood outside the women's prison in

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INNER CIRCLE: Tim Marcoux, right, shown protesting during the trial, expects to be put on Pam Smart's visitor list. Herald file photo

Pamela Smart supporters unite behind their cause

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Geoffstown, where Smart is incarcerated, with signs protesting what he says is a failed justice system. "People are finally starting to realize she didn't get a fair trial."

Marcoux, like Pereira, is among an inner circle of Smart supporters who have been in contact with the 24-year-old convicted killer through letters, phone calls and personal visits.

Marcoux, who visited Smart once while she was in a courthouse holding cell and expects

to be placed on her prison visiting list this month, said his phone conversations with Smart have been short but encouraging.

"I keep telling her we're going to do everything we can to get her another trial," Marcoux said of those phone calls. "She seems very frustrated — incredulous that she was convicted, especially since she didn't have anything to do with (her husband's murder)."

While Marcoux may be one of Smart's more vocal supporters, Pereira may be one of her most fanatical.

His apartment in Bath, Maine, is filled with pictures and letters from Smart and her parents, John and Linda Wojas.

His car bears a "Free PS" license plate, and he finds special significance in the "Smart's Auto Body" sign not far from his home.

The 49-year-old Pereira said he believes Smart was framed for the murder by her 17-year-old lover, William Flynn, who is still awaiting sentencing for the slaying.